CLASSIFICATION

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INTELLOFAX

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY   REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY	Korea
SUBJECT	Conditions in the Wonsan Area

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. In early May 1951, the food situation in the area of Wonsan was not as bad as it was reported to be in the Republic of Korea. Field rice was about two inches high, and farmers were at work as usual. Prices in Wonsan on 1 May were 1,700 North Korean won for a small mal of rice and 1,200 North Korean won* for a large bottle of soju**.

2. Railroads were operating in the Wonsan area. Damage to tracks from United Nations air raids was usually repaired within three days.

3. Civilian residents of the area reported that large quantities of army food supplies, principally rice, were stored in newly dug tunnels in surrounding hills. Most of the tunnels are along the Pyongwon railroad line between Pyongyang and Wonsan and in the mountains near Maengsan (126-30, 39-39).

4. Some civilians, including farmers, of the areas of Kansong (128-28, 38-23) and Sokcho (128-35, 38-12) were reported to have moved to the north. According to Wonsan rumor, they went to southeastern Manchuria.***

5. Many residents of the Wonsan area believed that United Nations troops would return to the area by August 1951. They could give no reason for their belief.

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* Comment. Exchange rates between North Korean won and other currency for this area at this date are not known.

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** Comment. This is a Korean wine.

*** Comment. No explanation for this evacuation was given.

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